

pinus for breeding.

Bhandara District also known as the lake district of Maharashtra has several lakes. It

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is therefore very likely that there are other strongholds of this Otter within the District. This however needs further investigation.

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2. EVIDENCE FOR A TIGER EATING A PANTHER CUB

In general predators tend to be intolerant of each other even to the extent of killing without provocation—and not just at kills (Schaller 1972). It has been recorded that tigers are intolerant of leopards (Anderson 1961) and the encounter some times may be fatal for the leopard (Allen 1960). Leopards killed may also be eaten by the tiger (Anderson 1954). Many of these type of findings in the Indian Jungle are obviously based on indirect evidence as the dense vegetation, the shy nature of the animals and the element of danger involved in going close to the animals seldom allow a field worker to witness the skirmish from the beginning to the end.

On 12.3.1978 an elephant mahout had seen a tiger in a bamboo-clad dry stream bed a kilometre from Bandipur Campus. When I was told about this, suspecting a kill, I combed the area in the company of Keechanna my tribal boy the next morning. Jungle crows were hovering over that area and while walking through the dense stand of bamboo I saw a panther lying on a *Terminalia bellerica* tree 10-12 metre from me. Cursing myself for not having brought the camera I slowly and silently retreated. My withdrawal enabled Keechanna to see the panther. Soon he ran to Bandipur to bring my camera and I climbed a tree 100

metres away and waited for 45 minutes watching the crows mobbing the panther.

Keechanna brought not only my camera but also Dr. Madhav Gadgil and two of his students. From a distance I showed them the panther and as all wanted to photograph we stalked through the bamboo but the panther jumped down and ran away.

Crows were still cawing and I continued my search for the kill. In one place I smelt the kill and the buzzing flies led me to the remains—skull, one lower jaw, one claw and intestine—of a panther cub approximately 3-4 month old. On the grass we could see the hair of the tiger and the panther. Impressions on the grass under a bush also showed the place where the tiger had been lying while eating. Twice it had drunk water in the nearby pool.

Earlier twice I had seen panthers on trees and in one instance, when a tiger was involved, the panther did not even jump down when I climbed a tree 10 metres away. But on the other occasion I saw a panther from 200 metres and hardly had I advanced 100 metres across an open area before the panther got down and ran away. However it should also be mentioned that in both cases where tigers were involved I had accidentally approached the panther through dense vegetation.

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3. RANGE EXTENSION OF CRABEATING MONGOOSE IN BANGLADESH

Recently (May 1978) three of our postgraduate students of wildlife biology, a wildlife enthusiast and myself were at Bariadhala, near the coast of Bay of Bengal, in Ramgarh-Sitakundu Range of the Chittagong Forest Division in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh. We were looking for wild animals along the edges of a moist deciduous forest dominated by *Artocarpus chaplasha*, *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* etc., where the edges had an abundance of *Grewia*, *Sterculia*, *Wrightia*, *Cycas* etc. There was a pond (100 m by 30 m), covered almost entirely by Indian Lotus. On its southern bank there was a thicket (5 m by 30 m) having some plants of the neighbouring forest with an abundance of *Clerodendrum*. A bridle-path-cum-cattle trail separated the pond from the forest edge.

One of the students (Anwarul Islam) who was searching for a wounded bird which he shot found a mongoose-like animal closely watching from inside the thicket. We encircled the bush and tried to drive the animal out. After about half an hour of beating the jungle the animal came to the open area, between the bush and the pond and again entered the jungle. By that time I took two shots by my

Fujica ST701 35mm Camera with a 85-205 mm tele-zoom lens. Unfortunately the sky was overcast and the pictures are not sharp but they clearly show the distinguishing features of a Crabeating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* (Hodgson). The white patch running from the mouth to the shoulder on either side, its massive build and erectile body and tail hairs are quite conspicuous. The latter feature must have been a defensive posture or threat display.

Two species of Mongoose are known to occur in Bangladesh. They are the Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi* (Geoffroy) and Small Indian Mongoose *H. auropunctatus* (Hodgson), both are common. But there appears to be no record of the Crabeating Mongoose occurring in this part of the sub-continent or of West Bengal. Blanford (1888), Pocock (1939-1941), Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951), have not included Bangladesh (or Bengal) that is erstwhile East Pakistan in the distributional range of the Crabeating Mongoose. Authors like Mountfort (1968) and Husain (1971) who have worked the Bangladesh fauna also did not include this species in their record. Prater (1971) states that it oc-